(a) whether any representation has been received by the Government from persons who retired prior to April 1, 1995 not before July, 1993 to extend the benefit retrospectively from July, 93 as decided in O.M. No. 7/2/93-P&PW (F) dated September 19, 1993 that the rate of DA will be added to pay for calculating gratuity equivalent to 20% of basic pay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Representations were received by the Government from persons who retired prior to April 1, 1995 for extending the benefit of O.M. dated October 19, 1993 retrospectively.

(b) The Government has, through that order, decided that in the case of Central Government employees who retire or die on or after 16.9.1993, twenty percent of the basic pay would be treated as dearness pay for reckoning emoluments for the purpose of retirement gratuity & death gratuity only under the C.C.S. (Pension) Rules, 1972.

Potable Water

5164. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide potable water on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed with regard to providing potable water to all in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) Water supply being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to plan, execute and maintain water supply schemes.

However, to supplement State Government's efforts, a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for towns having population less than 20,000 (As per 1991 Census) has been introduced, with effect from March, 1994. Under this programme cost between the Central Government and the State Government is shared in the ratio of 1:1.

As per the 1991 Census there are 2151 such towns having a total population of 23.4 million. It has been estimated that an amount of Rs. 2348 crores, would be required to cover all the towns. Against the above, the allocation made in the Central Sector for the Eighth Plan is Rs. 50.00 crores. Upto 31.3.96, 204. Water Supply Schemes at a cost of Rs. 161.63 crores have been sanctioned. Since the progress of the scheme depends on generation of detailed project reports by the State Government, their technical viability and availability of resources, it is difficult to indicate the target date for the completion of the programme.

[English]

Construction of Bridges

5165. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal regarding construction of bridges on rivers in the country particularly in Orissa under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is at present no proposal in this Ministry regarding construction of bridges on rivers in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation

5166. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'we won't go even if there is a bloodshed' appearing in the "Times of India" dated April 10, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Posts Reserved for OBC

5167. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of notified posts for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995 for three services of Central